

Glenda Wiles

From: LaSalles [lasalmom@montana.com]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2008 10:25 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Cc: TOM ROBAK
Subject: Cellulostic Bio-fuel Symposium

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Please share this message with all the Commissioners.

The Big Sky Coalition has three main emphasis areas.

1. Education. This is an ongoing effort and the focus is our forests in Western Montana specifically the Bitterroot National Forest. The efforts will center around a basic understanding of vegetative succession and the role fuels play in fire intensity.
2. Working with the Forest Service and environmental groups to design and implement large landscape level fuel reduction projects. These projects are the cornerstone of reducing the potential for large catastrophic fires and for success in emphasis area 3.
3. Using common sense and modern technology to produce bio-fuel with previously wasted biomass. We are researching the various ways to turn excess cellulose (thinning slash) into beneficial fuel—ethanol, methanol and bio diesel.

I have forwarded a paper from a professor at the University of Washington to Commissioner Driscoll regarding the opportunities for methanol production in the Western States, with emphasis on Montana.

The Big Sky Coalition is planning a bio-fuel symposium to be held in Hamilton. Dave Bull, Supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest, has agreed to be a co-sponsor and we would like to offer Ravalli County the opportunity to also be a co-sponsor for this important educational opportunity. Kristiina Vogt, author of the paper on methanol, has agreed to be a speaker and we plan to locate at least three other speakers that are expert on other processes or uses for the excess biomass. We envision the major contribution from Ravalli County would be providing the venue--the First Interstate Event Center, but we also welcome your participation in any or all aspects of the symposium. The timing for this event is late February or early March, which is an ambitious undertaking, but we believe it is possible with everyone working together.

I would be most happy to meet with all of you to answer any questions you may have. I am sure Commissioner Driscoll will share the methanol paper with you as I didn't want to load all your inboxes.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Veto J LaSalle
 Executive Director
 Big Sky Coalition

1/8/2008